

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, as the Examiner considers claim 6 allowable. Claim 7 has been amended to make it consistent with amended claim 1. Claims 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been canceled without disclaimer and Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in one or more continuation/divisional applications. These amendments do not add new matter. Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments and allowance of the pending claims.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claim 6 is allowable if it were written in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, as the Examiner considers claim 6 allowable. Therefore, claim 1 includes the features of claim 6 and all the pending claims are dependent on claim 1 and therefore are also allowable as well.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,341,487 (Takahashi). Claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,460,329 (Shimotani).

Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. Nevertheless, to advance prosecution, by this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, as the Examiner considers claim 6 allowable. Therefore, claim 1 includes the features of claim 6 and all the pending claims are dependent on claim 1 and therefore are also allowable as well. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

III Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shimotani.

Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. Nevertheless, to advance prosecution, by this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, as the Examiner considers claim 6 allowable. Therefore, claim 1 includes the features of claim 6 and all the pending claims are dependent on claim 1 and therefore are also allowable as well. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

IV. Conclusion

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

If any additional fees are due, or an overpayment has been made, please charge, or credit, our Deposit Account No. 11-0171 for such sum.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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